

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Advisory Council Annual Report 2005

Site Profile

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), designated in 1989 and encompassing 526 square miles, protects a very productive offshore seamount on the west coast, where the combination of ocean conditions and undersea topography creates a highly diverse marine community. The Bank rises to within 115 feet of the sea surface with water depths of 6,000 feet only a few miles west. The prevailing California Current flows southward along the coast, and the upwelling of nutrient rich, deep ocean waters stimulates the growth of organisms at all levels of the marine food web. It is a destination feeding ground for many marine mammals and seabirds. The site is located 60 miles northwest of San Francisco, California.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Advisory Council for Cordell Bank was established in 2002 to support the joint management plan review process currently underway for the CBNMS and its neighboring sanctuaries, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. The Council has members representing education, research, conservation, maritime activity, and community-at-large. The government seats are held by representatives from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Coast Guard. The Council holds a minimum of four regular meetings per year, and one annual retreat in the summer.

Major Achievements and Milestones

In February, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary co-hosted the annual Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting with Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. This meeting was held in San Francisco and Olema, CA at the Red Barn Classroom at Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters/Cordell Bank NMS offices.

This annual meeting is a chance for Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators from all 13 National Marine Sanctuaries to come together to discuss and present the unique qualities as well as the similarities shared in serving on the Advisory Councils of the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Carol Keiper, Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair for Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary served as host to the Chairs for this national meeting, and gave a presentation regarding the projects undertaken by the CBNMS Advisory Council for the Sanctuary, as a result of working group recommendations from the Management Plan Review process.

In the spring of 2005 Carol Keiper, Chair for the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, received the Cordell Bank NMS Volunteer of the Year and Environmental Hero awards for 2004, from NOAA and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Carol donates countless hours as a dedicated volunteer for Cordell Bank NMS. As an inveterate and well-respected marine biologist Carol's dedication and expertise is an invaluable resource for the staff and projects at the Sanctuary. In addition to holding the position of Chair and Research seat on the Sanctuary Advisory

Council from 2002 - spring of 2005, Carol has helped develop the monthly Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program, has contributed to developing and refining database functions for research at the Sanctuary, and has contributed greatly to outreach and education efforts for the Sanctuary.

Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

Recommendations made by Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council members during the management plan review process, contributed to the development of recommendations made by the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in 2005 to protect fragile habitats of Cordell Bank from disturbance by the use of all bottom contact fishing gear within the 50 fathom depth contour surrounding Cordell Bank.

In 2004 the Council wrote to the National Marine Sanctuary Program in support of the Cordell Bank NMS exhibit, which was in the design phase and scheduled to be on display at the Point Reyes National Seashore Visitor's Center. As a result of the Council's recommendations, funding for this exhibit came through and the final stages of design went forward in 2004. In the summer of 2005 the Cordell Bank NMS exhibits at the Point Reyes National Seashore Visitor's Center were unveiled, with a grand opening featuring keynote speaker Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey.

Major Administrative Changes

In May of 2005 the first Sanctuary Advisory Council for Cordell Bank reached its term limit and a new Advisory Council was selected. To accommodate a growing public interest in the Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council, and the growing needs of the

Sanctuary, the Council was expanded to include six voting seats with 11 members – primary and alternate – and five non-voting government seats. The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council now has members representing the research, conservation, maritime activities, community at large Sonoma County, community at large Marin County, and education communities; as well as representatives from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States Coast Guard, Channel Islands, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.

On September, 2005 the Cordell Bank Advisory Council elected new Council officers. The Cordell Bank SAC and staff would like to congratulate Tom Lambert, elected to serve as Chair, and Doreen Moser as Vice Chair for the Council. Tom and Doreen are both serving second terms on the Advisory Council.

Tom has served on the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council for three years as the Conservation seat, and has been selected to serve a second term as the Community at Large for Sonoma County seat. Tom dedicates much volunteer time, and continues efforts to inform the Council and educate the community about the research and conservation of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Doreen has served on the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council for three years as the Education seat, and has been selected to serve this seat for a second term. Doreen continues to bring tremendous insight and expertise to the Council table, well representing the constituency of marine educators.